

THE EDMONTON CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

presents

The University of Alberta String Quartet

Thomas Rolston, violin
Lawrence Fisher, violin

Michael Bowie, viola
Claude Kenneson, cello

PROGRAM

QUARTET, K. 465 ("Dissonance") Mozart

Adagio—Allegro
Andante cantabile
Menuetto
Allegro molto

QUARTET No. 10 Elizabeth Maconchy

North American premiere.
(The world premiere of this quartet was given by
the University of Alberta String Quartet in July at
the Cheltenham Festival, Cheltenham, England.)

INTERMISSION

QUARTET, OPUS 18, No. 4 Beethoven

Allegro ma non tanto
Andante scherzoso quasi allegretto
Menuetto
Allegro

Wednesday, October 4, 1972
8:30 p.m.

Convocation Hall
The University of Alberta

Next Concert: THE SMETANA STRING QUARTET
November 1, 1972

Program courtesy of Julian Books
Campus Tower Branch
11151 87 Ave.
439-2444

STRING QUARTET NO. 10 by ELIZABETH MACONCHY

The University of Alberta String Quartet presented the world premiere of the String Quartet No. 10 by Elizabeth Maconchy on July 15, 1972 at the twenty-eighth Cheltenham Festival in England. This evening marks the first performance in North America of this work.

Elizabeth Maconchy went from Ireland to the Royal College of Music (London) when she was 16. She is best known for her chamber music, having written in many forms besides her ten string quartets. During the 1950's she became increasingly interested in opera and composed three one-act operas. Two more followed later, and all have had recent productions. In 1963 she returned to chamber music with her clarinet quintet (for Ger-vase de Peyer), the 8th quartet in 1966 and the 9th in 1969. Orchestral works include a Serenata Concertante for violin and orchestra and 'Ariadne' for soprano and orchestra for Heather Harper, who has recently recorded it. She is at present working on an oboe quartet for Janet Craxton.

Concerning the String Quartet No. 10, Elizabeth Maconchy has written the following note:

"My String Quartet No. 10 was written in the latter half of 1971 for the University of Alberta String Quartet.

"My first quartet dates from 1932 and the intervening ones have been written at fairly regular intervals in between. It is the form which has seemed best suited to express the kind of music I want to write--an impassioned argument. Four players, like the characters in a drama, each pursue an independent line, yet react upon and influence each other. I find it the most exacting but most satisfying medium to work in, with its need for economy, clarity and closely-knit form, and have been drawn back to it again and again.

"The new quartet is in one movement of about 14 minutes duration, within which a number of contrasting sections are woven into a whole. It is framed by a recurrent Lento passage of repeated chords, with at the opening the brief motif in the viola which dominates the whole quartet. In the course of the movement three contrasted quick sections (deriving in different ways from the motif) are punctuated by slower passages.

"The tension grows as ideas are combined, and a climax is reached with a restatement of the opening material, extended and transformed by what has gone before. The work ends quietly."

